

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER  
JUNE 16, 2020**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A DEFINITION OF  
'MICROPLASTICS IN DRINKING WATER'

**DISCUSSION**

Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 116376 requires the State Water Board to adopt a definition of 'microplastics in drinking water' by July 1, 2020, and further requires the State Water Board, no later than July 1, 2021, to (1) adopt a standard methodology to be used in the testing of drinking water for microplastics; (2) adopt requirements for four years of testing and reporting of microplastics in drinking water, including public disclosure of those results; (3) if appropriate, consider issuing a notification level or other guidance to aid consumer interpretations of the results of the required testing; and (4) accredit qualified California laboratories to analyze microplastics. This statute permits implementation of this section through Board adoption of a policy handbook that is not subject to the regular rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. The proposed resolution is to adopt a definition of microplastics in drinking water. The definition of microplastics in drinking water will be used in developing the analytical methodology and testing requirements.

On March 24, the State Water Board published a draft proposed definition of microplastics in drinking water based on the state-of-the-science and detailed the rationale for the definition in a board workshop held on April 7, 2020. Written public comments were received during the 30-day public comment period from March 24 – April 24, 2020. State Water Board staff considered all comments received, and have prepared a written response to comments to both oral and written comments received.

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution establishing a definition of microplastics in drinking water?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact and no funds are being requested.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The State Water Board should adopt the proposed Resolution.